

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 240

Magi No. 0302405304

DOE ☐ es ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GRUPY'S HOLLOW BUILDING

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 11568B Belair Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Kingsville ☐ vicinity of Councilmanic District - 6th congressional district 2nd

state MD county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James Schmidt, Sr. & Jr.

street & number 11568A Belair Road telephone no.: 561-2785

city, town Kingsville state and zip code MD 21087

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 10895

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 716

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory

date On-going since 1965 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Grupy Hollow building is a survival of the tanyard once conducted in the valley of Broad Run called Grupy's Hollow or Bell's Valley. Possibly the stone structure was always a residence but it is built in a very plain country style from rust-colored local stones. The main block is 1½ stories and faces into the meadow or valley. It is set very close to Belair Road but screened from traffic noise by a thick stand of bamboo. There is a small frame extension to the north forming an L-shaped footprint. Down in the meadow is a ruined spring house of the same type stone as the present Schmidt residence. In an old style rural tanyard, there would have been many shallow vats lined with stone walls; the bottoms of the vats would have been packed earth or sand. To date, no Maryland tanyard has been excavated.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance -- Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/ government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	ca. 1823--	Builder/Architect	unknown
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

William B. Marye reported in his account of placenames that Francis Grupy had purchased land near Kingsville in 1823 to start a tanyard in the valley south of the Day-Deans House that is now the Lassahn Funeral Home.¹ The valley was called Grupy's Hollow for a time, and later Bell's Valley. The name is pronounced "GROUPIE." The present Schmidt house is one of two surviving buildings of the tannery complex.

The 1841 Assessor's Field Book of District 11 showed that Francis Grupy [sic] had 23 acres of "William The Conquerer" tract worth \$50 per acre. Improvements on the property were worth \$800. "Stock in trade" was worth \$1,000.²

The 1850 census of manufacturers showed H.H. Grupy with \$2,000 capital, 4 employees, and water powered operation, there were 36 vats; annual output was 2,000 sides of leather made from 1,000 hides. Other raw material was 80 cords of oak bark. Annual output was worth \$4,000.

J.C. Sidney's 1850 map of the county showed the T.H. Grupy [sic] "Tanyard" as did the 1857 map by Robert Taylor.³

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of property: Grupy's Hollow Building

Section number 8 Page 2

In what seems to be a confirmatory deed made in 1850, there is proof that there were two generations of Grupy's, Francis H. Senior, and Junior. The elder Grupy was deceased as of 1850 and his property was in the immediate vicinity of Kingsville and commonly known as Grupy's Tanyard and being the same land on which the said Francis Grupy lived to the time of his death."⁴

The Sun reported that F. Grupy sold his farm and tanyard to E.J. Bell & Brother, ship carpenter, in late 1853 or early 1854.⁵

Grupy moved his operation to the fringe of Baltimore City. In 1859, a letter to the editor of the county paper reported of the "Hide Oil and Leather Establishment of F.H. Grupy,"

...my friend some five years ago was
quietly located on his little farm and
at work at his little tannery in
Baltimore County...

then Grupy moved to South and Water Streets in the city and marketed sole leather.⁶ The tannery trade name was Grupy and Stansbury in the 1856 Gazetteer of Maryland.⁷ The foul smelling end of the business was listed on Greenmount Avenue in an 1864 advertisement.⁸

The Bell family engaged in routine farming and the county paper in 1890 reported a surprise party for Anne Bell held in "Bell's Valley."⁹

Maryland Historical Trust/
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Continuation Sheet

Name of property: Grupy's Hollow Building

Section number 8 Page 3

One of the family members who lived in Montana published a genealogical book about the Valley in the 1980s.¹⁰ During the 1970s, John Henry Miller was using the tanyard building to assemble Tiffany glass windows made to order for various private and corporate customers. About that time, Mrs. C.J. Langenfelder found a millstone in the meadow and had had it moved up the hill to serve as a garden decorated near her 20th century Colonial Revival house. However, we can not account for any grain mill at Broad Run and U.S. 1. The companion millstone has yet to be found.

NOTES:

1. William B. Marye, "Place Names of Baltimore and Harford Counties, Maryland Historical Magazine, 53 (March, 1958): 245. There have been suggestions that the building was constructed by the Day family, owners of the former "Kingsville Inn" but John Paul, the owner in the 1798 tax list had no small stone outbuildings. The 1823 and 1824 Assessments of Old District 2 list the Kingsville Mansion, the home of Abraham King and also a Jacob Grupy (not Francis Grupy) "on the new Belleair road" with 10 acres and \$150 worth of improvements. The Thomas Todd family heirs owned the ground before the Grupy family as revealed in the deed to the Kingsville Mansion, WG 138:153 (1816). Thomas Todd's 200 acres of "Cassaway's Ridge" contained only \$15 worth of improvements in the 1823 Tax List of Old District 2.
2. Assessor's Field Book, 1841, District 11, Baltimore County, unpagged, Hall of Records, Annapolis. The oldest records spell the family name with one "P." as do deeds that copied family signatures.

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Continuation Sheet

Name of property: Grupy's Hollow Building

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3. Census of Manufactures, 1850, Maryland, Baltimore County, microfilm, Maryland State Library, Annapolis.
4. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 439:453. Francis Grupy [Sr.] died Spetember 26, 1849, Sun, September 27.
5. Baltimore Sun, January 6, 1854. Baltimore County Deeds HMF 9:278. This deed shows that some of the tract was part of the survey "Gassaway's Ridge."
6. Baltimore County Advocate, Towson town, February 12, 1859.
7. Gazetteer of Maryland, 1856, advertisement on page headed "PRI."
8. New Era, April 25, 1864, p. 3, advertisement.
9. "Kingsville Items," Maryland Journal, Towson, May 3, 1890.
10. Edward J. Bell, Jr., "Bell Valley Days, 1900-11," in Wheat Was My Life (Bozeman, Montana, 1981). pp. 1-8.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Maryland Historical Magazine, 53:245.Baltimore Sun, January 6, 1854.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.85 acresQuadrangle name White MarshQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting	Northing							

B

Zone	Easting	Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 64, Grid 1, P 603.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	n/a	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planning date April 14, 1995street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone (410) 887-3495city or town Towson state MD 21204


The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

0302405904

Form 10-445
(5-62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN nr. Kingsville CITY Dist. XI STREET NO. Belair Road ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-247 240	
		2. NAME Gruppy Hollow DATE OR PERIOD before 1820 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <p style="text-align: center;">The Day family built this small stone house on the William The Conqueror tract. It was purchased in the 1820's and a tanyard was located there until 1858.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(second HABS report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY March 20, 1968</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE